

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.33

WHEREAS, there are currently twenty-one county prosecutor's offices in the State of New Jersey, each serving its specific county with its own dedicated offices and support infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, declining revenues at the state and local levels have exacerbated the burden on county governments to provide for the funding of these offices; and

WHEREAS, because of the separate structure and administration of the county prosecutor's offices under the current system, potential redundancies may exist in purchasing, administration positions, and special service units, and significant discrepancies may exist concerning caseloads and salaries paid to employees among the different county prosecutor's offices, leading to further inefficiency in the use of limited available resources; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I have the responsibility and the authority to ensure that State government and its various agencies and instrumentalities operate as efficiently and as effectively as possible; and

WHEREAS, consistent with that responsibility, it is appropriate to conduct a review of the current system governing the county prosecutor's offices to determine whether efficiencies, cost savings and a more equitable allocation of resources can be achieved;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby created a County Prosecutor Study Commission ("Study Commission"). The Study Commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members as set forth in this paragraph. The Governor hereby appoints the Attorney General to serve as the chairperson of the Study Commission. The Governor shall select the other twelve (12) members of the Study Commission, which shall be comprised of members of the law enforcement community, including but not limited to current or former county prosecutors and attorneys general; current or former county executives, freeholders or administrators; and the Treasurer or his designee. All members of the Study Commission shall serve without compensation.

2. The Study Commission shall be responsible for evaluating the current structure of the county prosecutor's offices; determining the feasibility of the State taking over all or a portion of the county prosecutor's offices; and other potential alternatives to address concerns about redundancies, inefficiencies, and inequities which may exist in the current system. In making its recommendations, the Study Commission shall carefully consider the State's short-term and long-term economic interests. The Study Commission's charge shall include, but not be limited to, making findings and providing recommendations to the Governor regarding:

- a. The viability of a total or partial State takeover of the county prosecutor's offices;
- b. Potential areas of waste, redundancy and inefficiency in the county prosecutor's offices;
- c. Alternatives to a State takeover that can achieve cost savings and efficiencies, including but not limited to regional consolidation and shared services;

- d. Current funding of county prosecutor's offices and whether the current funding mechanisms are appropriate, including but not limited to the viability of the County Prosecutor Funding Initiative Pilot Program; and
- e. Such other matters as may be referred to the Study Commission by the Governor.

3. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall provide staff support to the Study Commission. The Study Commission shall be authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this State to supply it with any information, personnel, or other assistance the Study Commission deems necessary to discharge its duties under this Order. Each department, office, division, and agency of this State is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate fully with the Study Commission within the limits of its statutory authority and to furnish the Study Commission with such assistance on as timely a basis as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order.

4. The Study Commission may consult with experts or other knowledgeable individuals in the public or private sector on any aspect of its mission, including but not limited to individuals who were involved in the State's assumption of the costs and administration of the judicial system, including but not limited to the development and implementation of the State Judicial Unification Act and the Judicial Employees Unification Act.

5. The Study Commission may report to the Governor from time to time and shall issue a final report to the Governor setting forth its recommendations pursuant to this Order no later December 15, 2010. The final report of the Study

Commission shall be provided to the Legislature and shall be made available to the public. The Study Commission shall expire immediately upon issuance of its final report

6. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
day of
Two Thousand and Ten, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor